

OPENING OF THE CANADIAN LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Canada commenced its session at Montreal last Thursday, and the following is a summary of the Governor-General's Speech.

His Excellency commences by stating, that uninterrupted tranquillity had prevailed throughout the Province during the year, and that it is Her Majesty's gracious intention to exercise the prerogative of mercy in favour of all persons who are liable to penal consequences for political offences in the years 1837 and 1838.

In consequence of communications which have passed between the Colonies and the Mother Country, steps will be taken on the meeting of the Imperial Parliament, for conferring on the Provincial authorities the full control and management of the Post Office Department; and when this arrangement is completed, His Excellency hopes it will be found practicable to establish a low and uniform rate of postage in the British North American Provinces.

The Governor-General then recommends an increase in the representation, and states that the opposition manifested in Lower Canada to the School Act has subsided. His Excellency alludes to the Survey of the line for a Railway from Halifax to Quebec, and states that he will lay before the Legislature the report of the Commissioners, and also a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressive of the interest which Her Majesty's Government takes in the execution of this great work.

With reference to the repeal of the Navigation Laws, as regards the St. Lawrence, His Excellency expresses his satisfaction at being able to state, that his representations on this head have been cordially responded to by Her Majesty's Government.

Various measures of a practical nature are recommended by His Excellency with reference to the completion of the St. Lawrence Canal, the amendment of the Emigration Act of last season, and the expediency of setting apart a portion of the public domain to form a fund from the sales, the interest of which shall be applied to the support of Common Schools.

Province of Ontario.—The following most extraordinary proclamation appears in the Quebec Gazette. What does it mean?

Proclamation of WIT AND SATIRE.
PUNCH, J. by the Grace of the Public of Canada, of the United Kingdom of Great and Little Britain, King of the West of Hamburgs, Defender of his Own Faith &c. &c. &c.

To Our well-paid and faithful (to their own interests) the Legislative Councils of the Province of Hamburg, and the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, elected to talk and vote themselves money in the Legislative Assembly of Our said Province, and especially to all and every one who has been named in his pocket and as willing to disburse—**CONCERN.**

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, in our intense love for the sublime and the ridiculous, it was our intention to publish a **FOUR-PENCE** paper, devoted to the support of the objects of Our passion. Never, therefore, for certain causes and considerations, which are nobody's business but Our own. We have to postpone the same to **MONDAY**, the **FIRST** day of the month of **JANUARY** next, so that you not any of you, cannot buy it before. **THEREFORE**, for not doing so. We do will that you and each of you, be as to Us entirely excommunicated; Commanding and by the tenor of these presents which you will be lase if you disobey, enjoining you and every one of you, and each and all in the possession of the aforesaid sum of Four Pence on **MONDAY**, the **FIRST** day of **JANUARY** next, to procure and purchase, for cash and credit, (which we wish you may get) but on no account to beg, steal or borrow, a **PUBLICATION** which will on that day be issued, on the perusal of which its contents will be made known to you.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused this Sheet to be Printed by a Patent Pressman, and by Captain McQUEEN, of the **Diddle** us; had presented Us with the Great Seal of Sea Serpents, we would affix it thereto; Witness, the Printer, Devil. At our Boarding House, in the greatest City of Montreal, in Our said Province, this Eighteenth day of December, 1848.

By Command,

GOOD HUMOR.
C. C. C.

Earthquakes in the Azores.—The Times publishes an extract from a letter, dated St. Michaels, December 3, from which we learn that a series of earthquakes had occurred among the Azore Islands during the previous month. Seven shocks were felt in St. Michaels on one night. One shock on the night of the 4th November, was very violent. At the ascent of the Island, many houses and part of a church were thrown down. The city of Angra, in Terceira, was nearly destroyed; and much of the inhabitants were able to do so, were leaving the island.

Heroes of the Slave Trade.—A letter from Capt. Eden, of the British man-of-war Amphitrite, dated Eighth of Decr, Oct. 3d, says that 900 slaves were lately murdered by the chiefs of Palma, who were unable to dispose of them.

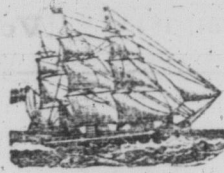
Tamboon.—The government council of this island on the 25th of December, adopted a series of resolutions punishing somewhat to the establishment of slavery, which excited some feeling in the public mind.

Our Subscribers will oblige us by paying our Collector, who will call upon them with their accounts for the last year.

THE STANDARD.

St. Andrews, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1849

Arrival of the Steamship



Canada.

The letter portion of the English mail, by the Steamship Canada, arrived here on Monday evening.

The following summary of the news is copied from the European Times of the 13th January.

Commercial affairs were improving, and business generally more active.

One of the Lords of the Admiralty, Lord Auckland is dead.

IRELAND.—The news from Ireland is much of the same character as that received by the last mail. The Court has given its decision on the demurrer in Mr. Duffy's case, and has formally overruled it.

The Cholera still continues its ravages in England.

The Pope is still at Gaeta, it is said in great despondency.

COMMERCIAL.

The aspect of commercial affairs during the last two weeks has been very encouraging; and, from present appearances, a good trade during the course of the ensuing spring is anticipated. Cotton is in fair request, but compared with our last quotations prices are not much advanced. The grain trade is rather dull, and prices continue to recede. The Colonial markets are in a healthy state, and prices, in most instances, are not only firm, but have an advancing tendency. (The iron trade is also improving; and money continues easy, discounts being from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 per cent.)

THE CHOLERA.

We regret to state that the hopes which were generally entertained that the cholera had reached its most destructive limits in the British dominions have been falsified during the last fortnight. The mortality in the London district has again reached about its previous highest range of seven weeks ago. In the provinces the mortality is still comparatively insignificant; whilst in Scotland, especially in Glasgow, the official reports of the numbers attacked daily are upon an alarming scale. The total number of cases throughout the country, from the first appearance of the malady, had reached 1249 by day, to 6506, whereof 2948 had died, 1249 had recovered, and 2519 were under treatment, or the result not stated.

IRELAND.

Our Irish news continues to be, as during many weeks past, of the same monotonous character. Government prosecutions for the grievance of the Poor-law, the miseries of the farmers driven to emigration, the troubles of the landlords in their last struggles to keep their encumbered estates, aggravated by the spread of incendiarism in some of the northern counties, together with some faint indication of the revival of the Repeal Association by Mr. John O'Connell, furnish almost the only themes available for the Irish journals. The proceedings against Mr. Duffy appear involved in more inextricable confusion than ever. The Court has given its decision on the demurrer, and has formally overruled it. But the Court pauses before it gives judgment on the indictment without trial, and Mr. Duffy's friends seem to have hopes that what with the revision of the indictment, and what with the changes of some fatal informality in the proceedings, by reason of his petition to be brought to trial at the present commission or to be discharged, he may escape conviction altogether. The Crown lawyers have taken till Thursday to consider what steps to take next, whilst Mr. Duffy is playing off a threat to bring the whole body, or nearly so, of the Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy as witnesses for the defence in case of a trial, so as to protract the defence beyond the powers of endurance of any mortal court of judicature.

ITALY.—THE POPE.

The affairs of Italy remain in statu quo, and the refusal of Austria to be bound by any mediation of friendly Powers, makes it doubtful whether the negotiations at Brussels will ever be held, and still more doubtful whether they will lead to any satisfactory result. It is said that the Pope is in great despondency at Gaeta, whilst, however, Austria, Naples, and Spain seem to be forming an alliance with a view to aid him.

From Spain we have still the same false reports of Cabrera's triumph, and the routing of the Queen's troops, as we have had for months past, only to be contradicted from authority by the next post that arrives.

The question of Sir Henry Bulwer's expulsion from Spain has been discussed in the debate on the Address, and some of the speakers observed, that the papers laid before them did not sufficiently demonstrate the culpability of the English agent.

We have nothing interesting from Portugal. The news from the Cape is to the 15th

November. Sir Harry Smith opened the legislative Council on the 21st of October, in a long speech, describing his late successful military operations.

FRANCE.

We were just enabled to announce, in our last number, the defeat of the new French ministry on the subject of the salt tax; and ever since there has been a sort of ministerial crisis with a partial change of ministry, arising from the general weakness of the new administration, from the opposition of the National Assembly, superadded to some pre-emptory imperial touches of sovereign authority on the part of Louis Napoleon, which together have again thrown French politics into the limbo of uncertainty. Three months ago we predicted that Louis Napoleon would not tamely consent to be fattened up like a pig, as Napoleon said to Sieyès. The new President met his ministers, and made use emphatically of the identical expression, that he would not *être un cochon à l'écurie*, and the first assertion of his power has signally failed. He demanded in a high tone, from M. Malleville, the surrender of the official documents connected with the Strasbourg and Bologne affairs. The minister demurred, and at length fully relented; and appealing to his colleagues to support him, they all assented in a body, and Louis Napoleon was compelled to present himself and promise that he would endeavour to retain under a responsible constitutional ministry for the future.

INDIA.

The Indian intelligence, with dates from Bombay to the 3d December, indicates that Lord Gough would have some sharp work to perform before the Panjab is annexed to the British crown, which it seems beyond a doubt has been predetermined. His lordship having crossed the Ravee at the head of 20,000 men with 70 pieces of artillery reached Hamnagar on the 21st November, in quest of the enemy. It seems doubtful where Chattr Singh is stationed, but he is said to be near Peshawar. The troops at that station had mounted and Major Lawrence at the imminent danger of his life, made his escape, and is now at Kohat. It is fortunate that the troops at Attock remained faithful, and Capt. Abbot maintained his position on the Hazero. At Moodra there had been some sharp skirmishing, our troops having suffered very severely from the batteries of the enemy, and one brave regiment having fallen gone over to Moodra, leaving the British officers in a most critical position, it was determined to make an attack upon the outworks erected in and after a most gallant hand-to-hand fight, when the British columns moved up to the rescue, the enemy was beaten at all points, the guns captured, and the glory of our arms amply vindicated.

The enemy is supposed to have lost from five hundred to one thousand men in all. Major Edwards' gallant conduct seems still beyond all praise. Since this encounter the siege at Moodra has remained in statu quo, it is not supposed that Moodra will yield until a sufficient force is brought before Moodra to so to better the place about this date.

The *Frederick Reporter* of the 26th instant, contains an excellent article on the subject of Reform, in which the Editor points in language which cannot be mistaken, the great necessity which exists for retrenchment in this Province. We can only find space in this day's paper, for the concluding paragraphs.

Comparing great things with small, such has certainly been the case in these Colonies, especially New Brunswick, and it continues to be so, at a period when the means to support extravagance seems beyond the compass of human ingenuity or industry. It is but one item in our Provincial expenditure, that we spend over £5000 annually, upon one of the most mischievous, that our general system of economy is carried forward in the same manner. We once before made the remark that at the time when the amounts of our official salaries were established, money was not worth its present value in the market. Let us now illustrate our position, by a contrast, both sides of which are perfectly within our own knowledge.

Thirty years ago, a single yard of Broad Cloth cost

Now, a similar article can be bought

Then, a yard of Cotton cost

Now, it costs

Then, a Hat cost

Now, a similar one can be bought at

Then, a pair of Boots cost

Now, they cost

About the same discrepancy exists in the old and new prices of articles of food, as will as in those of apparel; so that it may be fairly estimated that household expenses have fallen to about one-third their original charge, and consequently, that £300 in the present day, is worth as much as three times that amount in 1818. We have no room to press this subject further in the present Number. Our object in the observations with which we commenced, was to show the vast strides which the spirit of the Reform has taken within the last 300 years; and our closing remarks will be easily understood, as having reference to a part of the work which yet remains to be accomplished. The mountains which restrained the free progress of the principles of justice have been demolished; but the small impediments raised by selfishness, yet remain to be removed. On the subject involved, we leave our Provincial officials and the Representatives of the people, with whom they have to deal, to form their own conclusions.

Accident to the Steamer Senator.—The steamer Senator, Cap. Seymour, was carried ashore by the ice, about one mile below Fall River, on Wednesday evening, while on her way to New York. The steamer King Philip went to her assistance on Thursday, but got disabled and was frozen in. The Senator got off on Thursday afternoon. Boston Traveller.

From Mexico.—The schooner Wm. E. Collins, at New Orleans from Vera Cruz, brought papers the 2d instant. An informal meeting of the members of the Mexican Congress had been held, and a resolution adopted to fine every member \$100 a day, who neglected to attend at the general meeting of Congress, which was to assemble on the 1st inst.

The papers are full of accounts of the ravages committed by the Indians. The Monitor of the 26th ult. mentions that a party of seventy savages attacked on the 7th, the mining town of San Lucas, killed twenty of the inhabitants, wounded many others, and carried off eight captives, with a large number of horses and mules. A few hours afterwards the same party plundered the rancho of San Augustine, and before night robbed an *atajo* near Guagajito. The next day the same scenes of rapine were continued at other places in the vicinity, and the names of killed, wounded and captured are recorded in the papers. "Alas, for the poor inhabitants!" exclaims the Monitor, who have no security for their lives, their property or the honor of their families.

Exciting News from California!—The Washington Union (official paper), of the 21st inst. contains a letter from Lieut. Larkin, dated Monterey, Nov. 16th, received at the State Department, containing further confirmation of the previous despatches, public and private, and far outstripping all other news in its exciting character. The gold is increasing in size and quality daily. Lumps are found weighing from one to two pounds. Several have been found weighing as high as sixteen, and one twenty-five pounds. Many men who were poor in June last, are now worth \$30,000, by digging and trading with the Indians. A hundred dollars a day is the average amount realized daily from July to October. Half the diggers are sick with fevers, though not many deaths have occurred among them. The Indians readily give an ounce of gold for a *cachon calico shirt*—others are selling for ten dollars each in specie. The gold region extended over a tract of three hundred miles, and it was not known that it did not extend a thousand.

A letter from Commodore Jones states that considerable anarchy prevails in the fleet, the officers having been attacked with the fever. Many of the petty officers and men had deserted and gone in search of the gold. He adds, the Indians are selling gold for fifty cents the ounce. Many merchant vessels are deserted by their crews, and seamen. Discharged soldiers had been offered fifty dollars per month to go to Calico, in the ship Isaac Walton, which was refused. The naval vessels are short of hands—Oregon and the Sandwich Islands are pouring their population in to California. Provisions are scarce and high—board, \$4 a day—washing, \$3 a dozen. Merchants' clerks get from \$2000 to \$3000 a year.

All not gold that glitters.—Of five parcels of gold sent last week to a chemist in New York to be assayed, one was found to be nearly pure, and the other four, valued at \$80,000, were found to be worth eighty cents, and the chemist expressed his opinion that one-fifth only of the dust gathered in the gold regions would be found to be of any value.

The Lumber Trade.—Several of the papers received from Maine during the present week, look upon it that for the next year or two the State will come far short of its ordinary resources in the article of lumber, as it is considered that there will not be half the lumbering done this winter that there was last. The owners of timber land, it was thought by many last fall, would be deterred from granting permits, in consequence of a law passed at the last session of the Legislature, giving to operatives on lumber a lien on the article, in any and all shapes, for their wages.

The Portland Advertiser, in remarking on the subject, says—

"A somewhat new aspect is given to the lumbering business by the increasing use of horses in logging, instead of oxen. One of the largest operators on the upper waters of the Saint John, now has fifty or sixty horses in the woods—oxen none."

"As denoting the tendencies of business, it may be remarked that the same operator, taking in his horses and his first supplies, last Fall, from the lower St. John, and parts of this State adjacent, then proceeded from the Madawaska region, across the height of land to the St. Lawrence, and thence to Quebec for the purpose of buying flour and pork for his winter's operations. Not finding satisfactory terms in that market, he proceeded up the river, and actually purchased in Montreal, the supplies for his men and teams in the extreme northern parts of Maine, returning homeward himself through Vermont and Boston."

The United States Confederacy.—A convention of the Southern members of Congress was held at Washington on the 19th inst. for the purpose of testing the enforcement of the Fugitive Law, relative to the extension of slavery. Mr. Calhoun urged the dissolution of the Union, as preferable to submission by the South to the enforcement of the Fugitive Law in the new territories. Mr. Bayley then took the floor, and compared the grievances of the South to those which drove the American Colonies to rebellion.

Mr. Underwood asked if the gentlemen from Virginia wished the address to go out as a declaration of Independence? to which Bayley replied, not yet.

Mr. Morehead moved a series of resolutions declaring the Union indivisible, and that the

prosperity of the States and the people depended upon the preserving the Union. The resolutions also declared that the late movement for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, violated the spirit of the constitution, and that the South was opposed to the Wilnot proviso.

Mr. Morehead, in addressing the adoption of these resolutions, said that he believed the whole thing might be settled by a spirit of compromise in a manner which would prove acceptable to both the sections of the Union.

Mr. Calhoun said he would agree to these resolutions, provided annexation should be added, declaring that the South would prefer dissolution to the station of slavery through the aggressions of the North.

Mr. Morehead made an earnest appeal, in behalf of an adherence to the Union.

Mr. Foote asked if he would sustain the Union, should the Wilnot proviso pass, in which Mr. Morehead replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Bayley believed that the idea of any solution could not for a moment be entertained—the thing was impossible—the people of the country could never be persuaded or driven to that exigency.

The report was finally recommended by a majority of two.

The caucus consisted one half of wings and the other half democrats. The latter went for ultra measures, and the former for prudence and consolidation.

The Texas members, unlike their democratic colleagues, stood firm for the Union. New-Brunswick.

Another Bridge of Niagara.—A bill is before the New-York Legislature for the incorporation of a company to build a new suspension bridge across the Niagara river, about 40 feet below the American falls. Such a structure will command a midway view of both the falls at once, in all their glorious variety.

MARRIED IN JAIL. Charles Barton and Elizabeth Nichols of Boston, were married in the Albany jail on the 15th. The bridegroom is under sentence to the state Prison for two years, for horse stealing, and the bride is a pretty, intelligent and respectable girl.

Canadian Land and Railway Association. At a meeting of working men held in Portland Town, as reported in the London Emigrant and Colonial Gazette of the 23d December, Mr. Campbell, the secretary of the association, said that after many public meetings in various parts of the country, the most decided approval had been expressed, and the association was now in a position to start, so soon as a sufficient number of places were subscribed for, all preliminary matters having been almost completely settled, and at once proceeded with the first section, for the Quebec and Halifax Railway, the formation of the line from Halifax to Toronto (at the head of the Bay of Fundy). This particular route for itself, passing through a populous country abounding with minerals, the traffic of which would be highly remunerative. A statement of the sales of land during the current year was made. The total sold and leased to the 30th November was 63,571 acres, and the average price of the land sold was 12 1/2 pence per acre. The remittances from settlers to their friends in Europe, through the medium of the company, had in the year exceeded £200,000, being made in 1731 distinct amounts.

Robbery and Outrage at St. Mary's Cathedral.—It is our painful duty to record the perpetration of a robber outrage and robbery at St. Mary's Cathedral. On the night of Wednesday last the Vestry door, which opens upon the burial ground, was forced by some party of parties, who, having entered the premises, opened and ransacked the drawers containing vestments, &c. and carried off a valuable stole, and three surplices. The door of the room in which was the safe containing the sacred vessels of the Church, was forced and an attempt made to open the safe, picking the lock, but without success. The Cathedral was also entered, and three of the most precious treasures about the relic under the altar were carried off. All the poor-boxes were broken open, (as also the sexton's torse) but there contained little or no money. It is a matter of astonishment that the Cathedral was not destroyed, as there were traces of fire in several places. We have not heard that any clue to the perpetrators of this outrage has been obtained.—Hal Sun.

CARLETON IRON.—On Monday last we examined a specimen of Carleton Iron in its malleable state, which had been brought to this City by Mr. Stephens, of the Carleton Iron Works, for presentation to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, as the first fruits of these extensive works. This specimen was "puddled" in the forge of Mr. V. A. Harley, Blacksmith, in Woodstock, and formed into a neat large shoe, which was afterwards handed over to the Armourer of the 1st Royals, who polished one side, leaving the other with the finish which Mr. Harley's beautiful hammering had given it. The "puddling" process, and the forging of the horse-shoe, were completed in less than three hours. The Iron appeared to be soft, the grain very fine and apparently as tough as the finest Russia Iron. The polish produced by the Armourer was very fine, and, in the opinion of good judges, indicated a very superior description of metal. This specimen was presented to his Excellency on Monday, by Mr. Allan, of the firm of Harris and Allan, St. John, and Mr. Stephens, of the Iron Works, accompanied by the Hon. the Surveyor General, and James Taylor, Esq., M. P. P. We understand that His Excellency expressed himself much pleased with the specimen presented, and with the prospect of benefit to

the country, which the success of these works, cannot fail to do. The Iron Works are now turning out excellent Pig per day, the managers hope, in a short time to eight tons, which will be the average produce of their present state.—Hal Sun.

Daniel Hastings, Esq. of was yesterday sworn, in a Majesty's Executive Council. It gives us altogether pleasant what is pretty generally known Mr. Hastings, is a Politician—an unflinching advocate Reform; and under the press of the country, we look upon the Government, as a great Repoter.

New-Brunswick Benefit and Saving Fund.—The meeting of this Society, Mechanics' Institute on Tuesday 23d instant, which was very attended.

The directors submitted Accounts for the past year, of £5 19s. 6d. per share on which Report was unanimous vote of thanks passed to the Directors for their able and diligent management of the Society's affairs year. The Society then put the vacancies in the Board of Directors to the vote, and appointed an Auditor on the 23d.

The Board of Directors for this year, viz:—Charles Dury, J. Wheeler, James Agnew, C. John C. Littlehale, George F. Thomas A. Sauton. Mr. 2 appointed Auditor, who, will pointed by the Directors, will Audit for the year.

An advance was then granted out of the funds in the 1st, which the meeting separating themselves highly praising condition of the Society increasing both in numbers and in the Report and abstract shortly be published, and a member, by which it will be shown have pursued a course that the profits are equal to Society in England.—(New

THE LEGISLATURE met day. Many important of vast importance, to the cmined this Session. We sh to the Legislative debates, ry of the routine business

RECIPROCITY.—A comm by the Legislature of Nova cal trade with the United

THE LAST ROYAL GAZ a Bill to "provide for the City of Fredericton," by a the General Assembly.

DIE At 2 o'clock on the 2 terson, Esq. formerly 80 years. The decease mately known in this and Shipowner, and his many sterling qualities tion.

At Brighton, at the r les H. Richardson, on George Simon, suppo 120 years of age. "De Lower Germany. He single army of the 10 and was at the event of the 13th day of Septe ly that celebrated Gen the plains of Abraham this Province and enliven ment, from which he 25 years ago. He ca Mr. Joseph Richardson in which family he where he indeed found ching years. It is u the deceased has surv my.—Woodstock 80.

SHIP DUNEL Bay, Dec. 2 Miller, from St. And trod here this day, v 10 feet water in her 1 The Schoedue, fo Liverpool on the 11th

SHIPS **PORT OFS** **—AR** Jan. 29 Sloop Matild Provts ct. Jan. 30 Sloop Matild B

NO **ALL** Persons havin Estate of Samu of St. Andrews, decal them duly attested wit date, and all persons requested to make im

St. Andrews, Jan. 1 **PEW** For sale a Double Apply to